(11) The revival package for ECL and BCCL are presently under consideration of the Board of Re-construction for the Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE).

(12) As per the existing policy, 100% FDI for setting up plants for processing of coal and captive mine for power plants, 74% for exploration or mining for captive production for other end uses (Iron & Steel, Cement) is allowed. The Ministry had recommended to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that FDI cap may be raised to 100% for exploration and mining of coal/ lignite for captive consumption for all permissible activities and this should be allowed through the automatic route.

(13) CIL is exploring the possibilities of acquiring coal properties abroad.

(d) and (e) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.L. Shankar to suggest measures to reform the coal sector. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Exploitation of Indian workers abroad

*436. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take measures to curb exploitation of Indians taking up overseas employment;

(b) if so, whether Government have also started taking stringent action against recruiting agencies found guilty of cheating Indians taken to the Gulf with promises of employment;

(c) if so, whether the Minister during his recent visit to UAE, his first had feel of condition of Indians had convinced him that unscrupulous recruiting agencies were responsible for miseries that some Indians, especially labour class, face there; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or are likely to take to protect the interests of Overseas Indians which are being exploited in many countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVI RAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad for employment, it has been made mandatory *w.e.f.* 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, *viz.* demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, *i.e.* unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers; and in respect of nine countries, *viz.* Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Tanzania, Israel, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait and Brunei, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission(s).

Sporadic complaints are received about cheating of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned Protector of Emigrants, (POEs) are directed to file complaints/ FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agencies for violation of section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the years *i.e.* 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.07.2005), 25, 39 and 33 complaints have respectively been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

Further, with a view to avoid exploitation of workers by unscrupulous recruiting agencies, all State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep strict vigil on the activities of the unregistered agencies engaged in illegal emigration.

When such complaints are received against registered recruiting agents, the concerned recruiting agents is directed to settle the matter. If he fails to do so, action is taken to suspend and thereafter cancel the registration certificate. During the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.07.2005), the number of registration certificates suspended was 3, 24 and 20 respectively and the number of those cancelled was 2, 2 and 13 respectively.

Apart from recruiting agents, there are also complaints of harassment and exploitation by the foreign employers. The Indian Missions intervene in all cases that are brought to their notice.

Further, measures under contemplation include a scheme for providing legal assistance through the Indian Missions to Indian workers who are advised to file a case before the concerned Ministry of Foreign Government, entering into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with foreign Governments, etc.